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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of evaporating a liquid sample contained in a sample holder which is mounted within a chamber and rotated by a rotor therein during the evaporation so that centrifugal force is exerted on the contents of the sample holder during the process whilst a pressure below atmospheric is maintained in the chamber in manner known per se, so as to leave as a residue any solid material dissolved or otherwise mixed in the liquid forming the sample, characterised by comprising the steps of:

mounting a transducer to monitor the force acting on the sample holder relative to the rotor when rotating at a given speed and obtaining a force signal therefrom, supplying the force signal to a computing means, programming the computing means to compute a value equivalent to the centrifugal force exerted on the sample holder due to rotation of the rotor at said given speed, further programming the computing means to compute a weight value from the force signal using the computed centrifugal force, and further programming the computing means to generate a control signal for controlling the evaporation process in dependence on the computed weight value, wherein the computing means includes a microprocessor adapted to rotate with the rotor.

2. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of mounting a second transducer to monitor the speed of rotation of the rotor, obtaining a speed signal therefrom, and supplying the speed signal to the computing means for computing said weight value.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the computing means is programmed to convert the transducer signals into a form suitable for transmission to an external receiver.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the computing means converts the

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1. (Currently amended) A method of evaporating a liquid sample contained in a sample holder which is mounted within a chamber and rotated by a rotor therein during the evaporation so that centrifugal force is exerted on the contents of the sample holder during the process whilst a pressure below atmospheric is maintained in the chamber in manner known per se, so as to leave as a residue any solid material dissolved or otherwise mixed in the liquid forming the sample, characterised by comprising the steps of:

mounting a transducer to monitor the force acting on the sample holder relative to the rotor when rotating at a given speed and obtaining a force signal therefrom, supplying the force signal to a computing means, programming the computing means to compute a value equivalent to the centrifugal force exerted on the sample holder due to rotation of the rotor at said given speed, further programming the computing means to compute a weight value from the force signal using the computed centrifugal force, and further programming the computing means to generate a control signal for controlling the evaporation process in dependence on the computed weight value, wherein the computing means includes a microprocessor adapted to rotate with the rotor

2. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of mounting a second transducer to monitor the speed of rotation of the rotor, obtaining a speed signal therefrom, and supplying the speed signal to the computing means for computing said weight value.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the computing means is programmed to convert the transducer signals into a form suitable for transmission to an external receiver.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the computing means converts the